

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 195286

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. CONSPIRACY ARRESTS KEEP GUINEANS NERVOUS

EMBASSY CONAKRY REPORTS THAT TENSION IS HIGH IN GUINEA IN THE WAKE OF NUMEROUS ARRESTS FOR ALLEGED CONSPIRACY AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT. SEKOU TOURE, IN AN EMOTIONAL SPEECH:

--CLAIMED ARRESTED FIFTH COLUMNISTS DISCLOSED THAT THE CONSPIRACY WAS SUPPORTED BY FRANCE, THE FRG AND SOUTH AFRICA WITH FINANCIAL AID FROM SENEGAL AND THE IVORY COAST AND ASSISTANCE FROM GABON AND ZAIRE; AND

--DENIED THE ARRESTS WERE A VENDETTA AGAINST THE FOULAH TRIBE.

EMBASSY COMMENT: EVEN THE MOST SENIOR MEMBERS OF THE GOV-
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ERNMENT DREAD A MIDNIGHT KNOCK AT THE DOOR AND GUINEANS

ARE AVOIDING SOCIAL CONTACT WITH WESTERN DIPLOMATS. THERE IS NO ALLEGATION OF US COMPLICITY. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) CONAKRY 1561, 8/5.)

2. SOUTH AFRICAN OFFICIAL PAYS LOW-KEY VISIT TO ISRAEL

EMBASSY TEL AVIV REPORTS THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN MINISTER OF LABOR AND MINES VISITED ISRAEL IN LATE JULY TO DISCUSS COMMERCIAL MATTERS AND INCREASED MILITARY SALES. ACCORDING TO THE EMBASSY:

--ISRAELI MFA AND SOUTH AFRICAN EMBASSY CONTACTS WERE FAIRLY CLOSE-MOUTHED ABOUT THE VISIT--AN INDICATION OF THE SENSITIVITY AND IMPORTANCE BOTH ATTACH TO THE RELATIONSHIP.

--THE VISIT WAS A RESULT OF AN AGREEMENT REACHED DURING VORSTER'S VISIT AND WILL BE RECIPROCATED BY THE ISRAELI MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY.

EMBASSY COMMENT: OUR FEELING IS THAT THERE IS A GOOD DEAL GOING ON BETWEEN ISRAEL AND SOUTH AFRICA, INCLUDING ARMS DISCUSSIONS, WHICH BOTH COUNTRIES FIND IT IN THEIR INTEREST NOT TO REVEAL. (CONFIDENTIAL) TEL AVIV 5386, 8/5.)

3. PANAMA: CASTRO VISIT UNLIKELY FOR NOW

GENERAL TORRIJOS HAS DENIED REPORTS THAT FIDEL CASTRO WILL VISIT PANAMA IN THE NEAR FUTURE. ACCORDING TO EMBASSY PANAMA, TORRIJOS WILL PRESUMABLY SEE CASTRO AT THE COLOMBO NAC SESSION AND THE SUBJECT OF A VISIT MAY ARISE. THE GENERAL IS AWARE, HOWEVER, THAT A VISIT WOULD BE ILL RECEIVED IN THE US, PARTICULARLY BEFORE THE ELECTIONS, AND THE EMBASSY DOUBTS HE WILL WISH TO COMPLICATE MATTERS IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) PANAMA 5453, 8/5.) HABIB

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